

STATEMENT MADE BY SENATOR OPF HORWOOD IN SENATE ON June 4, 1971

When you come to these things, someone said, "Why do you not do something about it?" I think the time has come when we have to give very serious consideration to doing something about it, and I am going to suggest that the question which arises in my mind, and which I know arises in the minds of many decent self-respecting responsible citizens in South Africa is: "Why should any self-respecting responsible government allow these grave aberrations to continue? Why should it? What good is it doing this country in its tremendous fight to uplift and improve the lot of all sections of our population in this difficult world. Take the universities again. These minority groups are hell-bent on destroying the declared policy of this country, that is to say separate development, they have said so - NUSAS has said: "We will fight apartheid to the death and by any tactics too. I want to suggest has the time not come when it ought to be made very clear to these groups through their universities, where else can you do it, that they must cease and desist or else. That is what happened in America. Governor Ronald Reagan acted strongly in California when the University of California, the biggest university in the world, was tottering - it was on the brink of complete chaos and anarchy from these very same leftist elements. Then Governor Reagan stood up and said "You will cease and desist from these activities or I shall reduce the subsidies that you receive from the State of California". But they did not - they abused him - and he cut the subsidies and if you go to the University of California today that huge university is proceeding in an orderly and dignified fashion. That is the position. Now, do not let the hon. Senator R Louw tell me that I am attacking our universities again. But what I am saying is that these universities have statutory bodies, they have councils of prominent men and I want to know what are the councils of these universities doing when members of NUSAS who are university students, do the things that I have mentioned here and many others that I have not had time to mention and the many things that they are saying to incite racial unrest in this country, to play into the hands of our enemies outside this country and they do it day by day - what are these authorities doing to stop these nefarious activities. You know that I am the last to suggest that we should interfere with universities but let me say this that if it comes to the security of the State and the welfare of this nation and this country, then I want to say that no university stands above or outside the law of this country and it is high time that this were understood and under our Universities Act of 1955 as amended, the Minister has the power to do exactly what certain governors of the American states have done including the University of Wisconsin, they have reduced the subsidies and they have called the bluff of those people overnight. I put that forward. I am a great champion of academic freedom but not at the cost of anarchy, not at the cost of the security of my country, I want to know what the university authorities are doing in these matters. These are people who are looked up to, they are paid by the State, they are in responsible positions and I think it is high time we could come out and ask them what precisely is being done to stop once and for all these utterly un-South African activities that are going on in our midst. That is the position.

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REPLY BY DR GR BOZZOLI, PRINCIPAL AND VICE CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

(RAND DAILY MAIL, June 5, 1971)

The Principal of the University of the Witwatersrand, Dr GR Bozzoli today strongly attacked statements about the English universities made by Senator Owen Horwood in the Senate yesterday.

Senator Horwood, a former principal of the University of Natal, reminded South Africa's university councils that the Government had the power to reduce their subsidies.

Dr Bozzoli in reply today said: "To suggest that it should be necessary to 'control' expression of opinion by students in our universities by withholding funds from the university concerned is not only abhorrent, but is the kind of suggestion which shows a complete lack of understanding of the magnitude and range of the activities of a vigorous modern university.

"It is completely incorrect to compare the actions of the students some years ago on certain of the campuses of the University of California - each of which is smaller than many other campuses, like Ohio and Paris - with the occasional student demonstrations in South Africa.

"In South Africa the students have shown their disagreement, which as voters they have a perfect right to do, with certain of the laws enacted and conditions obtaining in this country.

"In their opinion these laws and conditions are harsh and unjust. But they are totally opposed to violence of any kind".

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reply by dr f stock,  
REPLY BY DR F STOCK, PRINCIPAL AND VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF NATAL

"The man who pays the piper calls the tune. The university is dependent on government for most of its financial support and in the end the man who provides the support can call the tune. I don't think that any government is anxious to do this, nor wise to do so. But I don't think that it could be regarded as interference with university autonomy."

Professor Stock said that in any case he did not think the kind of action that Senator Horwood was suggesting against NUSAS would be necessary. He felt the students themselves would take action.

"I think that reaction against NUSAS will come from within the student body itself. I know there are many on this campus who would be pleased to see the university dissociated from NUSAS. There is a very strong feeling about this on the campus."

On the suggestion made by Mr JPA Reynecke MP for Boksburg in Parliament last week that the Government should have a greater say in the appointment of lecturers in universities where leftist activities occurred, Professor Stock said this was going too far. It was not within the terms of the man paying the piper and appointment of staff should be left to university administrations.

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REPLY BY PROFESSOR G VAN N VILJOEN, PRINCIPAL AND RAND AFRIKAANS UNIVERSITY

He thought that Senator Horwood was "completely correct".

"Academic freedom cannot be used to disturb the good order of the university."

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If Senator Horwood's utterances are another example of the muddy minded drivel to which we have had to become accustomed since his departure from the University of Natal then they do not warrant a reply.

But if the Senator's remarks are an indication of an intention on the part of the Nationalist Government to place pressure on the English language universities to enforce Nationalist party politics on students - then we must warn that the Government will stir a crisis greater than that one of 1959 when they chose to segregate these universities against their will.

Senator Horwood was not noted for his success in building good relations between students and the University administration in Natal. Now it seems that he wished to sow discontent between students and administrations on every other English language campus as well and disrupt existing good relations. One would have hoped that the Senator would have stopped dabbling in matters where he has burnt his fingers once already.

I would like to thank the Professor for his concern, and politely suggest that the universities are doing very well without his intervention.

The Prime Minister's discourteous reply to my letter, and the various veiled threats which he and members of his government have been making suggest to me that the government is looking for a scape goat. If an attack is made on NUSAS it will be an effort to divert public attention from the serious economic and political crisis which the government has landed itself in - and a political manoeuvre of the most despicable sort.

It is ironical that after his plea for real co-operation at the Republic Festival the Prime Minister and the Government should deliberately set out to interfere in university and student affairs and cause unnecessary ill-feeling.

I am surprised that Senator Horak remarked that NUSAS stinks - and his epithet is so refined that it cannot be reflected more badly on him than on NUSAS.

South African students and the English universities have long resented government interference and the present grumblings can only be seen as bullying intimidation for political reasons. NUSAS will stand firm and not bow and scrape for Mr Vorster. We do what we believe is right, and we will continue to do so;

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#### FURTHER HORWOOD ATTACKS

Horwood attacks NUSAS (CAPE TIMES June 17, 1971)

It was time that the Government made it clear to those who were harassing the Prime Minister in a way which amounted to outright subversion: "So far and no further" Senator OPF Horwood (Nat) said in the Senate yesterday.

Senator Horwood who spoke on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill, referred to demands made to the Prime Minister by NUSAS that he should apologise for the reference which he (the Prime Minister) had made, when he addressed the Republic's 10th anniversary celebrations, to people who had not taken part in the celebrations because they had no part to play in them.

He said that although the Prime Minister had not mentioned NUSAS in his speech at the Republic celebrations, he had received a letter from the president of NUSAS calling on him to apologise to NUSAS for the remark.

Senator Horwood read a letter written to the Prime Minister, by Wren L Christie, honorary secretary of the Students' Representative Council of the University of the Witwatersrand, and said that he was doing so with the full concurrence of the Prime Minister.

The letter conveyed to the Prime Minister a resolution adopted by the SRC, Witwatersrand University about the death recently of members of the South African Police as a result of terrorist activities in the Caprivi Strip.

He said the resolution did not refer to members of the police but to "deaths of soldiers of the South African Defence Force serving in the Caprivi Strip"

"I can assure the House that the Prime Minister views this turn in the situation with the gravest possible light,

"These resolutions of the SRC of these universities and the resolutions of NUSAS are sent all over the world.

"They are not only sent to universities and other people - they have a big mailing list. They are sent to many countries and many places and many organisations and here everybody knows for a fact that there is not a single member of the Army or the Defence Force or the Air Force anywhere on the borders of this country standing firm against the terrorists.

The resolution says 'The death of soldiers of the South African Defence Force'. This will be with the United Nations already. There is no question about it. This is what it says and further that this whole act of war of the communist terrorists - and act of war against us - is provoked by this Government.

"That is the position we have reached, and I just want to add that as if there were not enough - here I have the RAND DAILY MAIL from June 7, 1971 - and Mr Keegan whom I happened to mention in my speech last Friday, the vice-president of NUSAS, who was the man I strongly criticised for having gone to Lesotho and told the South African students from several African countries that they must help their counterparts in South Africa to fight apartheid in all possible ways, that is to fight the policy of separate development.

This Mr Keegan says "Mr Vorster should be warned that South African students are growing daily more angry at his intimidation of their leaders"

"I want to ask a further question. Seeing that we are concerned here with a matter of first class security, I want to ask what is the connection of NUSAS and what is the attitude of NUSAS today to a body with which it has always had closest associations, the National Union of Students in Great Britain, which has a membership of more than 5000 000?

"I ask that because the National Union of Students in Great Britain today has as its president a man called Digby Jacks, or Comrade Digby, as he is known, a card-carrying communist, a member of the Communist Party in Great Britain.

"What are the connections between NUSAS today and the National Union of Students in Great Britain? I hope that will be answered.

We have to take the gravest possible view of this attempt on the part of a large group of people in this country today to harrass the Prime Minister.

Imagine the Prime Minister having to set aside hours of his time a week to deal with this sort of subversion. This is outright subversion. There is no other name for it."